



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's theatrical production 'Mirzakoshon', penned by the acclaimed playwright Farhad Naqd'ali and skillfully helmed by director Ali Fat'hali, has taken center stage at the Shahrzad Theater Complex.

This captivating play commenced its captivating journey on May 28 and is set to enthrall audiences until the curtain falls on June 30.

Fat'hali, the visionary director, expounded on the artistic essence of the production, revealing a captivating amalgamation of storytelling techniques, including the venerable art of naqqali, alongside the resounding recitation of 'Shahnameh', the fabled Iranian epic poetry. Embracing the hallmark labyrinthine narrative structure of Iranian performances, patrons will bear witness to a mesmerizing interplay of storytelling intricacies, seamlessly interwoven within the very fabric of the performance. At the heart of this enthralling tale lie Termeh and Amir, two young souls entangled in a profound bond, nurtured within the hallowed walls of Darolfonoon School. Yet, their fervent affection becomes entwined with a somber twist, as Termeh's father finds himself ensnared in the throes of a grievous transgression, warranting the restitution of Diyya—an obligatory financial compensation traditionally paid to the victim or their heirs in cases of accidental manslaughter, bodily harm, or property damage.

Meanwhile, Amir finds himself ensconced in the depths of a peculiar predicament, toiling within the confines of a chamber presided over by the influential figure, Mirza Mashallah. This enigmatic persona harbors intentions of wedlock, proposing to unite with Termeh's father in matrimonial alliance, in exchange for fulfilling the Diyya obligation. Yet, amidst this labyrinthine scenario, Amir, aided by the sagacious Mubarak and the ingenious nephew of Mirza Mashallah, endeavors to engineer a masterful plan aimed at thwarting the solemn union from materializing.

As 'Mirzakoshon' continues its spellbinding run, spectators will be captivated by the enthralling tale that explores themes of love, loyalty, and the pursuit of justice within the intricacies of Iranian society.

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Iran, Russia sign MoU for film production, joint events



Iran and Russia have recently solidified their collaboration in the realm of film production and joint events through the signing of a memorandum of un-

derstanding. The Farabi Cinema Foundation of Iran and the Union of Cinematographers of the Russian Federation came together to formalize this agreement, marking a significant milestone in their cinematic partnership. The signing ceremony took place on Tuesday at the headquarters of the Union of Cinematographers in Russia, and it was attended by Kazem Jalali, the Iranian Ambassador to Russia, Mehr news agency wrote. During the ceremony, Nikita Mikhalkov, the head of the union, and Seyyed Mehdi Javadi, the CEO of the Farabi Cinema Foundation, affixed their signatures to the memorandum. While commenting on the agreement, Javadi revealed

that it entails the development of fresh collaboration between Iran and Russia's film industries. This collaboration will encompass various aspects, such as co-production of films, organizing events, and hosting film weeks. Javadi expressed optimism that the implementation of this agreement will foster the growth of the cinematic relationship between Iran and Russia. Furthermore, both parties have agreed to establish a working group comprised of representatives from Russia and Iran. This working group will be responsible for strategizing and executing joint cinema projects, further reinforcing the ties between the two nations in the film industry.

Perfecting Iran's National Orchestra through practice and collaboration

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Arash Amini, a renowned guest conductor of Iran's National Orchestra, shares his first-hand experience with the orchestra, highlighting the importance of dedicated effort and practice in achieving musical excellence. As the current leader of the orchestra, Amini's insights shed light on the journey to success for this esteemed musical ensemble.

Established in 1998 under the guidance of Master Farhad Fakhreddini, with the support of the Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Iran's National Orchestra has come a long way. Its inaugural performance showcased the vocal talents of Mohammadreza Shajarian, under the baton of Farhad Fakhreddini, featuring compositions by Bijan Taraqqi and Ali Tajvidi. Over the years, the orchestra has collaborated with numerous conductors. However, the Artistic Council of Iran's National Orchestra made the decision to invite guest conductors, with Arash Amini currently at the helm.

Drawing from the rich heritage of Iranian music, Iran's National Orchestra aims to captivate audiences with its performances. Following a ticketed program at the Fajr Music Festival in January/February of this year, the orchestra now focuses



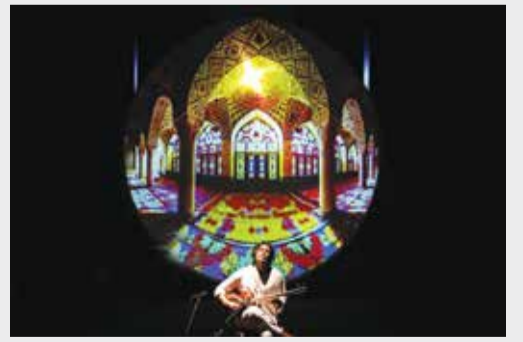
on presenting works by Iranian music masters in its current phase of activity. The program includes compositions by Iranian composers such as Morteza Hananeh, Javad Ma'roufi, Hassan Kassai, Behzad Abdi, and the eagerly anticipated premiere of Farhad Fakhreddini's 'Concerto for Violin and Orchestra.' Furthermore, the orchestra showcases the mastery of soloists like Maziar Zahirreddini, Amin Ghafuri, Shima Shahmohammadi, Mojgan Mohammad-Hosseini, and Pouria Shivafard, who perform captivating suites for instruments like the kamancheh (an Iranian bowed stringed instrument), ghaychak (a bowed lute), ney (flute), and qanun (a string instrument). Reflecting on his connection with Iran's National Orchestra, Arash Amini expresses his nostalgia and excitement to lead

this esteemed ensemble once again. He praises the orchestra's talented musicians and the presence of Maziar Zahirreddini, a pillar of Iranian music, as the concertmaster. Amini emphasizes the stability and desirability of the orchestra's situation, attributing it to the collaboration of seasoned professionals and younger players. Amini also acknowledges the need for continuous progress and development, particularly after the challenging period brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. Comparing an orchestra to a sports team, he emphasizes the importance of familiarity, harmony, and extensive practice among its members. Leveraging the immense potential of the orchestra, Amini believes that more performances and rehearsals will elevate the ensemble to new heights, not only enhancing the

musicians' morale but also raising the overall level of the orchestra. When it comes to selecting the repertoire for Iran's National Orchestra, Amini aims to present unique and lesser-known pieces that resonate with his own artistic preferences. The centerpiece of the concert is the world premiere of Maestro Farhad Fakhreddini's violin concerto, a composition entrusted to the orchestra by its esteemed founder. In addition, Amini introduces innovative combinations, such as a suite featuring the kamancheh and orchestra, performed by the talented Shima Shahmohammadi, and a suite for the qanun, with solo performances for the qanun and violin. The program also includes the mesmerizing 'Eight Paradises' by Master Hassan Kassai, arranged by Kambiz Roshanravan, featuring a solo ney, brilliantly performed by Pouya Shivafard. Amini expresses his belief that Iran's National Orchestra should concentrate on showcasing the rich tapestry of Iranian music, highlighting the country's exceptional instrumental talents. By dedicating themselves to their craft and offering remarkable performances, the orchestra aspires to reach new heights of artistic achievement and inspire audiences with the beauty of Iranian music.

PIC OF THE DAY

Sohrab Pournazeri and Ali Qamsari, acclaimed musicians from Iran, are presenting live performances at the Saadabad Complex in Tehran.



● ALIREZA SOTAKBAR/ISNA